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Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits: review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020

Egypt:*, draft resolution**

Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Istanbul Declaration[1] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,[2] adopted by the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011, and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/280 of 17 June 2011, in which it called upon all the relevant stakeholders to commit to implementing the Programme of Action, and recalling also the Political Declaration adopted by the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, held in Antalya, Turkey, from 27 to 29 May 2016, and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/294 of 25 July 2016,

Reaffirming the overarching goal of the Istanbul Programme of Action of overcoming the structural challenges faced by the least developed countries in order to eradicate poverty, achieve the internationally agreed development goals and enable graduation from the least developed country category,

Recalling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[3] the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,[4]

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

** In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

[1] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. I.

[2] Ibid., chap. II.

[3] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

[4] General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex.

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the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[5] the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030[6] and the New Urban Agenda adopted in Quito by the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III),[7]

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 72/231 of 20 December 2017,

Recalling further its resolution 2017/28 of 25 July 2017 on the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,

Welcoming the intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations adopted at the third Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up, held in New York from 23 to 26 April 2018,[8]

Welcoming also General Assembly resolution 72/279 of 31 May 2018 on the repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and emphasizing the importance of its implementation, taking into account the special needs and priorities of the least developed countries,

Taking note of the 2018 Development Cooperation Forum held in New York on 21 and 22 May on the theme "The strategic role of development cooperation in achieving the 2030 Agenda: building sustainable and resilient societies",

Taking note also of the high-level meeting on achieving sustainable graduation for the least developed countries, held in Dhaka on 29 and 30 November 2017,

Noting the theme of its high-level segment of 2018, "From global to local: supporting sustainable and resilient societies in urban and rural communities", and the theme of the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2018, "Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies",

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020;[9]

2. *Calls upon* the least developed countries, their development partners, the United Nations system and all other actors to further intensify their efforts to fully and effectively implement, in a coordinated, coherent and expeditious manner, the commitments that have been made in the Istanbul Programme of Action[2] in its eight priority areas, namely, (a) productive capacity, (b) agriculture, food security and rural development, (c) trade, (d) commodities, (e) human and social development, (f) multiple crises and other emerging challenges, (g) mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity-building and (h) good governance at all levels;

3. *Invites* the private sector, civil society and foundations to contribute to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in their respective areas of competence in line with the national priorities of the least developed countries;

4. *Welcomes* the operationalization of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries and the inauguration of its headquarters in Gebze, Turkey, takes note with appreciation of the contributions that Turkey, Norway, the Sudan and Bangladesh have made, and invites Member States, as well as international organizations, foundations and the private sector, to provide financial and technical assistance to the Technology Bank to ensure its effective operation;

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[5] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

[6] General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II.

[7] General Assembly resolution 71/256, annex.

[8] See E/FFDF/2018/3.

[9] A/73/80-E/2018/58.

5. *Reaffirms* that the least developed countries, as the most vulnerable group of countries, need enhanced global support to overcome the structural challenges they face in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[10] and in this regard calls upon the international community to prioritize and strengthen support from all sources to facilitate the coordinated implementation and coherent follow-up to and monitoring of the Istanbul Programme of Action, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[3] and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development[4] in the least developed countries;

6. *Recognizes* that significant additional domestic public resources, including at the subnational level, supplemented by international assistance as appropriate, will be critical to realizing sustainable development and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda acknowledge the centrality of domestic resource mobilization underscored by the principle of national ownership, also recognizes that, while the least developed countries have made considerable efforts to mobilize domestic resources and attract private investment, further progress is needed, and underlines the importance of strengthening domestic enabling environments, including the rule of law and combating corruption at all levels and in all its forms;

7. *Expresses its concern* that, while the least developed countries are in need of enhanced global support, bilateral official development assistance (ODA) to least developed countries remains far from the target set out in the Istanbul Programme of Action and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, noting the reversal of the decline of official development assistance to least developed countries in 2017 after its continued decline for several years in a row and expressing its appreciation to those few countries that have met or surpassed their commitments to 0.7 per cent of gross national income (GNI) for ODA to developing targets and the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of GNI for ODA to the least developed countries, calls upon ODA providers to fulfil their respective ODA commitments to the least developed countries, and encourages ODA providers to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.2 per cent of GNI for ODA to the least developed countries, while reiterating that an important use of international public finance, including official development assistance, is to catalyse additional resource mobilization from other sources, public and private;

8. *Recalls* General Assembly resolutions 59/209 of 20 December 2004 and 67/221 of 21 December 2012 on a smooth transition strategy for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries, and underscores that the efforts of the least developed countries towards sustainable graduation are underpinned by their ownership and leadership, as the primary responsibility for development lies with the countries themselves, but that they need to be supported by concrete and substantial international partnership measures in a spirit of mutual accountability for development results;

9. *Reiterates* the recommendation that the consultative mechanism specified in General Assembly resolution 59/209 be established by the graduating country, in cooperation with its bilateral and multilateral development and trading partners, to facilitate the preparation of the transition strategy and the identification of the associated actions and the negotiation of their duration and phasing out for a period appropriate to the development situation of the country, and that it be integrated into other relevant consultative processes and initiatives between the graduating country and its development partners;

[10] See A/72/83-E/2017/60.

10. *Decides* to enhance the monitoring of the implementation of the respective transition strategies of graduated least developed countries during the coordination and management meetings of the Economic and Social Council and to review the status of the implementation of the smooth transition strategy, after graduation becomes effective, for a period of three years, and triennially thereafter for two consecutive terms;

11. *Recognizes* the importance of the reviews by the Committee for Development Policy of the graduation criteria for the least developed countries, recommends that the reviews be comprehensive, taking into account all aspects of the evolving international development context, including relevant agendas, and in this regard takes note of the decision of the Committee to implement a multi-year work programme for a comprehensive review of the least developed country criteria[11] and looks forward to its outcome;

12. *Reiterates* that wider recognition of least developed country status could stimulate and facilitate better integration of the Istanbul Programme of Action into development policies, and in this regard takes note of the survey conducted by the Committee for Development Policy to collect information on the recognition and application of the least developed country category by entities of the United Nations development system and the recommendations of the Committee;[12]

13. *Recalls* the decision contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that effective linkages will be made with the follow-up and review arrangements of all relevant United Nations conferences and processes, including on the least developed countries, underlines the importance of strong synergy in the implementation of the recently adopted agendas and the Istanbul Programme of Action at the national and subnational levels, and encourages coordination and coherence in the follow-up of their implementation;

14. *Expresses its serious concern* at the fact that the share of expenditure for operational activities for development of the United Nations system in the least developed countries is declining and reached 46 per cent of total expenditures at the country level in 2016, compared with more than 50 per cent until 2014,[13] urges the United Nations development system to continue to prioritize allocations to the least developed countries by developing operational guidelines with clear budget targets and rules for budget allocations, while reaffirming that the least developed countries, as the most vulnerable group of countries, need enhanced support to overcome structural challenges that they face in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and requests the United Nations development system to provide assistance to graduating countries in the formulation and implementation of their national transition strategies and to consider country-specific support for graduated countries for a fixed period of time and in a predictable manner;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Council at its 2019 session, under the sub-item entitled "Review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020" of the item entitled "Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits", a progress report on the implementation of the Programme of Action.

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[11] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2017, Supplement No. 13* (E/2017/33), chap. I, sect. B, para. 12.

[12] Ibid., chap. I, sect. A, para. 5.

[13] See A/73/63-E/2018/8.